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3-21-00  
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Dawson *et al.*

Art Unit: 1623

Examiner: E. Peselev

Atty. Docket: 03654.0250.US01

## A circular black ink stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIPE). The text "OIPE" is at the top, "JC89" is at the top right, "MAR 09 2000" is in the center, and "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom.

**Sir:**

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038.

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application, with 1, 27, 30 and 40 being the independent claims. In the Office Action, claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These matters are addressed in order below.

Based on the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and they be withdrawn.